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Department of State

42 DECLASSIFICATION DATE 12/4/75 NUMBERED
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ARA FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5B201 1957 OCT 18 AM 8:48 Rec'd: 11231
Info FROM: Guatemala City October 17, 1957
RMR TO: Secretary of State 11:55 p.m.
NO: 135, October 17, 7 p.m.
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Ydigoras published today that at meeting October 15 Minister Defense Oliva told principal military leaders "as strongman of Guatemala he would impose by force of pressure and if necessary by force of arms candidacy of (disgraceful) PDN party". Ydigoras added this action if true by which Oliva "was declaring himself dictator of republic would destroy constitutional balance and would kill electoral law and very constitition". Ydigoras challenged Oliva publicly deny charge if it was not true.

Ministry Defense today characterized Ydigoras' statement as false and tendentious and challenged Ydigoras prove that he so grossly had said. In concomitant personal statement Oliva officially rejected Ydigoras' charges which he characterized as senile, childish and untruthful. Emphasizing his proven respect for law and rights of people expressed doubt Ydigoras was in his right mind.

Growing intemperance of Ydigoras' charges indicates state of desperation reflecting pessimism of some of his followers. While this intemperance may stir up emotions of extremists among his followers it is probably hurting his cause with Moderates and Independents.

Ydigoras party published statement reporting [illegible] will deliberately be created on election day in order justify suspensions of guarantees to enable police [illegible] prohibit from having access to tabulation of votes.

Despite fact permission was denied PR front groups to hold demonstration this evening sizeable crowd congregated but [illegible] without incident.

Association university students announced it will hold

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-2- 135, October 17, 7 p.m., from Guatemala City.

3 day protest strike commencing Monday against alleged CGG violations of human rights.

SPARKS

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[redacted] (Security Classification)

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714.00/10-1857

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: American Embassy GUATEMALA — DESP. NO. 231

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON — DATE: October 18, 1957

REF:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
OCT 21 1957

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	REC'D 10/21	FOA CIA 12

SUBJECT: Manifesto by and About Presidential Candidate General Ydigoras Fuentes

Ydigoras Fuentes publicly published a manifesto charging that the Government and the MDN were guilty of the "most abominable violations" of the electoral process. He said that Ortiz' campaign was being financed with Government funds; that the managers of the national farms were being coerced into making their workers vote for Ortiz; that public employees were being dismissed for belonging to his party; that official vehicles were being improperly used to further Ortiz' candidacy; that public officials were intimidating the people; that the courts had turned deaf ears to violations of the constitution; that the Government would foment street disturbances, blaming them on the opposition and establishing a state of siege; and that under those circumstances a sit-down strike would be constitutionally justified.

Ydigoras instructed his followers to initiate the sit-down strike upon the first evidence of fraud, without awaiting further orders.

The MDN, on October 13, published in El Imparcial a photostat of a letter dated September 14, 1957, allegedly written by Ydigoras to Col. Carlos Paz Tejada, Guatemalan exile in El Salvador. The letter refers to an agreement between the two men and implies that Paz has given Ydigoras financial help in return for Ydigoras' announced policy of allowing the exiles to return if he is elected. The MDN claims that the letter is proof that a vote for Ydigoras is a vote for communism.

On October 17 Ydigoras published a statement summarizing his platform. He stated that his enemies believe that the best argument against him is to call him a dictator. He says that no one who submits his candidacy to the freely expressed will of the people, as in the present election, can be a friend of dictatorship, as the people of Guatemala repudiate dictatorship.

The General says that the MDN, not content with having dug the grave of President Castillo Armas, is now preparing its own with its campaign of calumnies. The General says the leaders of the MDN were so busy filling their pockets with the taxpayers' money that they could not protect their late Chief.

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HBS

BJMuyle:mr
REPORTER

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The General promises to allow complete political freedom if he is elected. He also promises a "New Life", but with the "significant difference" that he will also provide "New Faces". He promises to fight against Government corruption.

The General promises to continue the struggle against Communism, but he says that he will do so under law.

He promises a campaign against illiteracy, he promises to create a new social class of small land holders, and he promises a public health campaign. He expresses gratitude to the United States for its economic assistance. He closes by expressing the hope that all citizens will express their will at the polls and that the candidate who legitimately obtains the most votes will be elected.

Copies of the documents referred to in this despatch are enclosed.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Ben J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

Enclosures:
As stated

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